



CONNECTICUT FIRE MARSHALS ASSOCIATION

Ct General Assembly
Banking Committee
March 1, 2011

Chairs ,Senator Duff, Rep Tong and members of the banking Committee,

I am Kevin Kowalski Fire Marshal for The Simsbury Fire District. I have been the Fire Marshal for the past 25 years. I also represent the 300 + members of the Ct Fire Marshal's Association with regard to Legislative matters. I am providing this testimony to you in support of Raised Senate bill 957.

The Fire inspectors and fire investigators throughout the state are finding it difficult to determine owners or responsible parties for buildings. The previous legislation that was adopted some years ago did assist us in this matter however due to this economic down turn we are finding that it is difficult to determine who is responsible for occupied buildings.

On the matter of emergency response due to a fire or other incidents we need support from the owner or person responsible that can make immediate decisions on taking action.

Typically when a fire occurs in a dwelling we do need prompt action from whomever is responsible . We want to make the building safe, either to reoccupy or to turn off , repair utilities and make the building secure etc.

Additionally we have gotten into situations where an annual fire inspection is required and we cannot locate an "owner because it is in foreclosure" but it is still occupied.

It is very difficult to take appropriate action to mitigate the hazards. The General Statues are very specific as to who is required to be notified of a violation for correction.

Please help us keep the public safe and make the building owners responsible for their property by making this important adjustment .